



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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<p>MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET</p>

CITY BEGINS EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE EFFORT FOR FLOOD CONTROL IN TIJUANA RIVER VALLEY

*Emergency Effort will Clear Sediment, Trash and Debris
from Critical Channels In Advance of El Nino Rainy Season*

Mayor Jerry Sanders today announced that city crews from the Storm Water Department have begun an emergency maintenance effort for flood control channels in the Tijuana River Valley. The maintenance work is being done under an emergency declaration issued by the City Council and will involve the removal of sediment, trash and debris now clogging the channels. The City is working to restore the channels in advance of winter rainstorms like those that contributed to flooding in the valley last year.

The City Council declared a “State of Local Emergency” on September 15 of this year. The Council took the emergency action because of predictions for heavier rains coming from an “El Nino” weather pattern and because of potential impacts arising from inadequate storm water management facilities connected to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Tactical Infrastructure Project (Border Fence Project). The border fence project spans and constricts Smuggler’s Gulch, one of the primary water courses entering the valley, and may substantially exacerbate flooding conditions in heavy rain events.

“This work is being done to protect life and property,” said San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders. “Clearing these channels will help keep flood waters away from the farms and homes in the area and will help us avoid the impacts we experienced following last year’s storms,” he said. “We are working closely with our partner agencies including the Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, to make sure this work gets done as quickly as possible,” said the Mayor.

The city's channel maintenance effort will remove debris, trash, sediment and overgrown vegetation from the area. The work will occur along 1,600 linear feet of the Smuggler's Gulch channel and in 5,400 feet of the Pilot Channel that drains flood waters to the ocean. The cleanup effort will also include rebuilding portions of a 400 foot long erodible flood control berm located east of the Hollister Bridge, vegetation management in the Northern Channel.

The material excavated from the floodplain will be hauled to a staging area for processing. It is estimated that the critical majority of the work can be completed before the city experiences substantial rains. All of the work will be completed before February 15, 2010, the start of nesting season for the endangered Least Bell's Vireo.

More information about the city's storm water management program can be found at: www.sandiego.gov/stormwater.

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